



Identiflow[®] for Microcomponent Analysis

Consumption by domestic customers continues to rise with unmeasured household demand accounting for over half of distribution input in the UK. The accurate estimation of future domestic consumption, the driver behind future supply/demand balance investment, requires an understanding of water use in the home. Microcomponents analysis provides a method of assessing the sub-components (eg toilet use, shower use, washing machine use etc.) of household demand.

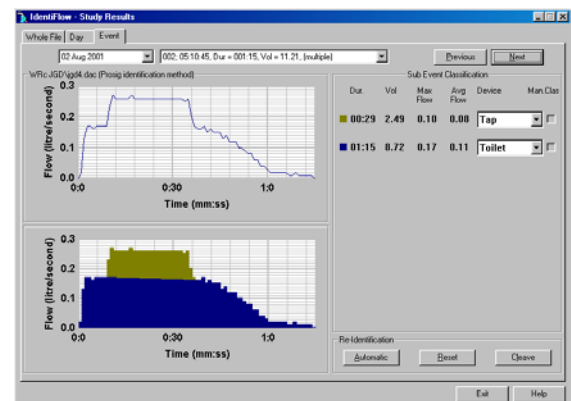
Identiflow[®] is a unique system capable of quantifying microcomponent consumption. Information which can be used to predict the future demand for water, monitor the potential benefits of demand management and the causes of peak demands.

Benefits of the method include:

- Provision of local, regional and national statistics on microcomponents use for demand forecasting.
- Provision of definitive evidence of the effectiveness of demand management measures such as water audits, "hippo" cistern devices, water butts, water recycling etc.
- Identification of the detailed effects of revenue metering on demand.
- Identification of which components contribute most to peak demands.

The system

- The Identiflow[®] system comprises:
- A flow meter and logger system which can be installed in an external meter boundary box. The meter and logger system record 1/250th of a litre of consumption at 1 second intervals for periods of up to 8 weeks.
- Identiflow[®] software with an automatic facility to identify and classify microcomponent events and an interactive facility which permits the experienced user to review and refine the analysis



The software identifies the usage of a range of water-using devices, including toilets, internal and external taps, showers, baths, washing machines, dishwashers, water softeners etc. The analysis provides the characteristics of each water-use event, identifying the device and calculating duration, volume, average flow and maximum flow. The statistical analysis provides a range of reports including device characteristics, frequency of use, volume per use, and in contribution of each device to overall demand.

Identiflow[®] does not require calibration for each site and therefore customers' consumption can be monitored without influencing their behaviour.

Identiflow[®] in Action

The system has been used for assessing microcomponent use in over 500 properties:

- At 250 properties in 10 UK Water Companies as part of the project "Towards a National Microcomponent Monitor".
- During normal demand at a representative sample of households in a number of water companies.
- During peak demand at a representative sample of households in a number of water companies.
- To demonstrate the effectiveness of water audits and the impact of revenue meeting.



Identiflow[®] meter and logger



Identiflow[®] in action – monitoring flow into a flat

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